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Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 /089 W
----------086377 201923Z /46
O 201913Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4534
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS AND PA

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
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AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG XF OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: RELIANCE ON U.S. CLEAR IN LIGHT COVERAGE VANCE
- VISIT

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SUMMARY. STRIKINGLY LITTLE DIRECT PLAY GIVEN VANCE VISIT BUT CLEAR THAT "LAST-CHANCE-FOR-STUBBORN-ISRAEL" LEITMOTIV OF PRESS COVERAGE (SEPTEL) SET STAGE FOR APPEAL FOR U.S. TO RESOLVE CRISIS. EGYPTIANS EYE TRIPARTITE SUMMIT AS POSSIBLE WAY OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. EXPECTED ARRIVAL SECRETARY VANCE JANUARY 20 GARNERED FEW HEADLINES BUT WAS DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PRESS EXPECTED VANCE AND SADAT DISCUSS "U.S. COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN LIGHT OF PRINCIPLES CARTER DECLARED IN ASWAN." JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AFTER END OF TALKS AT 1530.

2. REFLECTING EGYPTIAN HOPE FOR U.S. SYMPATHY, AKHBAR CLAIMS "U.S. UNDERSTANDS REASONS BEHIND SADAT DECISION", QUOTING "RELIABLE U.S. SOURCES" AS SAYING ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES BEGIN HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING AND SADAT "WAS GETTING TIRED OF ISRAELI MANEUVERING." SOURCES POINTED OUT "CARTER HAD GIVEN VANCE MANDATE TO BE ACTIVE IN JERUSALEM TALKS . . . TO INDULGE HEAVILY IN PRESSING, PERSUADING AND ENCOURAGING ISRAELI SIDE TO MOVE POSITIVELY." NOW, "VANCE WILL NOW HAVE MORE URGENT REASONS TO BE MORE ACTIVE SINCE PEACE PROCESS BREAKING DOWN, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BROKEN DOWN ALL TOGETHER." QUOTED, IN SAME STORY AS EXPRESSING REGRET FOR BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMARKS AT JANUARY 17 DINNER, KISSINGER INDICATED "BEGIN AND ISRAEL HAVE NOT EVEN GONE HALF WAY."

3. UNSTATED HOPE IS THAT CARTER WILL TAKE PERSONAL HAND IN PUSHING BEGIN FORWARD. PRESS HAD "REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT CARTER WILL INVITE BEGIN TO U.S. FOR TALKS. AGENCIES REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM QUOTED BEGIN FOLLOWING NINETY MINUTE MEETING WITH VANCE, AS PREPARED ATTEND TRIPARTITE WASHINGTON SUMMIT WITH CARTER AND SADAT.

4. EDITORIALS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ROLE. AKHBAR NOTED THAT QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER END OF ROAD HAS BEEN REACHED AND, IF NOT, WHAT NEXT MOVE MIGHT BE. CONCLUDED IT COULD NOT SAY THAT INITIATIVE HAS FAILED BECAUSE WORLD INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE. NEXT MOVE WILL TAKE SHAPE IN LIGHT OF THIS INTEREST "AND OF EFFORTS EXERTED BY U.S. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS OFF THE GROUND." HOWEVER, NO RETURN TO JERUSALEM UNLESS ISRAEL REVERSES ITS SEARCH FOR PARTIAL SOLUTIONS. QUESTIONED WHETHER "U.S. EFFORTS BE ABLE TO LIBERATE ISRAELIS FROM THEIR ILLUSIONS AND MAKE THEM

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ADOPT A MORE SERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACE? . . . THE ENTIRE WORLD IS WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. EFFORTS." GUMHURIYYA, TOO, THOUGHT "THIS ISRAELI ATTITUDE IMPOSES RESPONSIBILITY ON ENTIRE WORLD ESPECIALLY ON THOSE POWERS WHICH SUPPORT ISRAEL AND PROVIDE IT WITH MEANS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS EXPANSIONISM. ENTIRE WORLD REQUESTED TO PREVENT LAST CHANCE FOR PEACE FROM SLIPPING AWAY DUE TO ISRAELS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS." ACCORDING AHRAM, "U.S. MUST WAKE UP FROM ITS NAP BECAUSE ITS PRESTIGE HANGS IN THE BALANCE." EILTS

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TAGS: OVIP, EG, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
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